

~~SECRET~~~~NOFORN CONTINUED CONTROL~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

3 February 1961

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Army
Attn: ISR

FROM: Interagency Source Register

SUBJECT: THOMPSON, James Harrison Wilson (SD 5345-C) (recheck)

1. Reference is made to the request, subject as above, whose name you desired checked against the files of this office. The files contain the following biographic information concerning the subject of your request.

2. Subject was born in Greenville, Delaware, on 21 March 1906. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Princeton University and completed two years of graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania at unknown dates. Subject served from 1941 to November 1943 in the United States Army and from 1943 to 1946 with the Office of Strategic Services in Bangkok, Thailand, and Calcutta, India, with the rank of Major and Lt. Colonel. In 1946 Subject was attached to the Office of the Military Attache as Assistant Attache in Bangkok.

3. A report of 17 July 1952, from a reliable source, indicated that Subject returned to the United States in November 1946 and severed his connections with the United States Government in order to engage in private business. He returned to Thailand in 1947, where he established a successful and unusual business (silk weaving). As the years passed Subject's business enterprises brought him more and more closely into the activities of indigenous bodies of Thailand and Indochina, whose various nationalist causes Subject sponsored. In 1951, during a trip to the States, he called on several high officials in Washington to urge that certain activities be sponsored by the Government. Subject was regarded as a patriotic and loyal American, unusually endowed with an ability to blend into the indigenous scene, and capable of winning friends and influencing people in a high degree. However, he was, an outspoken critic of American policy, as he saw it, and had a strong streak of independence which would lead him in any direction which in his opinion was best for the local people in whom he took an interest.

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This tendency may have manifested itself in Burma. Subject was known to call on the Ambassador of the country in which he was residing to convey his opinions and impressions of local circumstances and affairs which came to his attention.

4. In a report of 18 July 1952, from a reliable source, it was indicated that Subject had been a prominent American businessman in Thailand from 1947 to time of the report. He was the managing director of the Thai Silk Company, which he created by organizing Thai and Laos weavers in Thailand into a producing cooperative. Source was informed that Subject had been employed periodically by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE-a United Nations organization) as a consultant for the development of cottage industries, weaving and textile services, marketing and distribution of home industries products, etc. In this capacity, he visited in India and Burma during the past several months and he had recently been appointed by ECAFE as a consultant to advise the Burmese on the development of cottage industries and the like. This appointment appeared to be of indefinite duration.

5. Subject is rated "good" in reading, speaking and understanding of French.

6. The Interagency Source Register has no record of a current operational interest in Subject.

7. To date, CD/00 has not submitted a reply to this request.

ISRM-2707

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